

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please replace the paragraph at page 59, beginning at line 2 and ending at line 25 with the following paragraph:

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An optical pickup device has an ~~irradiation~~ optical system for focusing a light beam to form a spot on a track on an information recording surface of an optical recording medium, and a light detection optical system for leading return light reflected back from the spot to a photodetector. The optical pickup device also has includes a focus error detecting optical element which splits and leads return light to a photodetector. The focus error detecting optical element has an area quadrisection into first through fourth quadrants from the center of an optical path of the return path along by two division lines extending corresponding to a direction in which the track extends and a direction perpendicular to the extending direction on defining a plane substantially perpendicular to the optical path of the return path, light for applying astigmatism to the return light passing through adjacent ones of the areas on the same side of the division line with astigmatism in directions rotated by 90° from each other about the optical path, and for separating the return light into at least four corresponding to by the areas respective quadrants. The photodetector has a plurality of spaced light receiving elements for receiving the separated return light, each of receiving which element has contour lines corresponding to the division lines on an image plane on which a light beam is shaped into a circular beam in the optical system in which the astigmatism is applied, and. The light receiving elements are comprised of two light receiving areas divided by a bisect line extending substantially in parallel with one of the contour lines.

IN THE TITLE

Please replace the Title of the invention with the following title so as to read as:

“Optical Pickup Device With Focus Error Detecting Optical Element and Method

For Focus Error Detection”